

# BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 4, Summer 2004

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

[www.iskconirm.com](http://www.iskconirm.com)

## Bringing the truth to academia

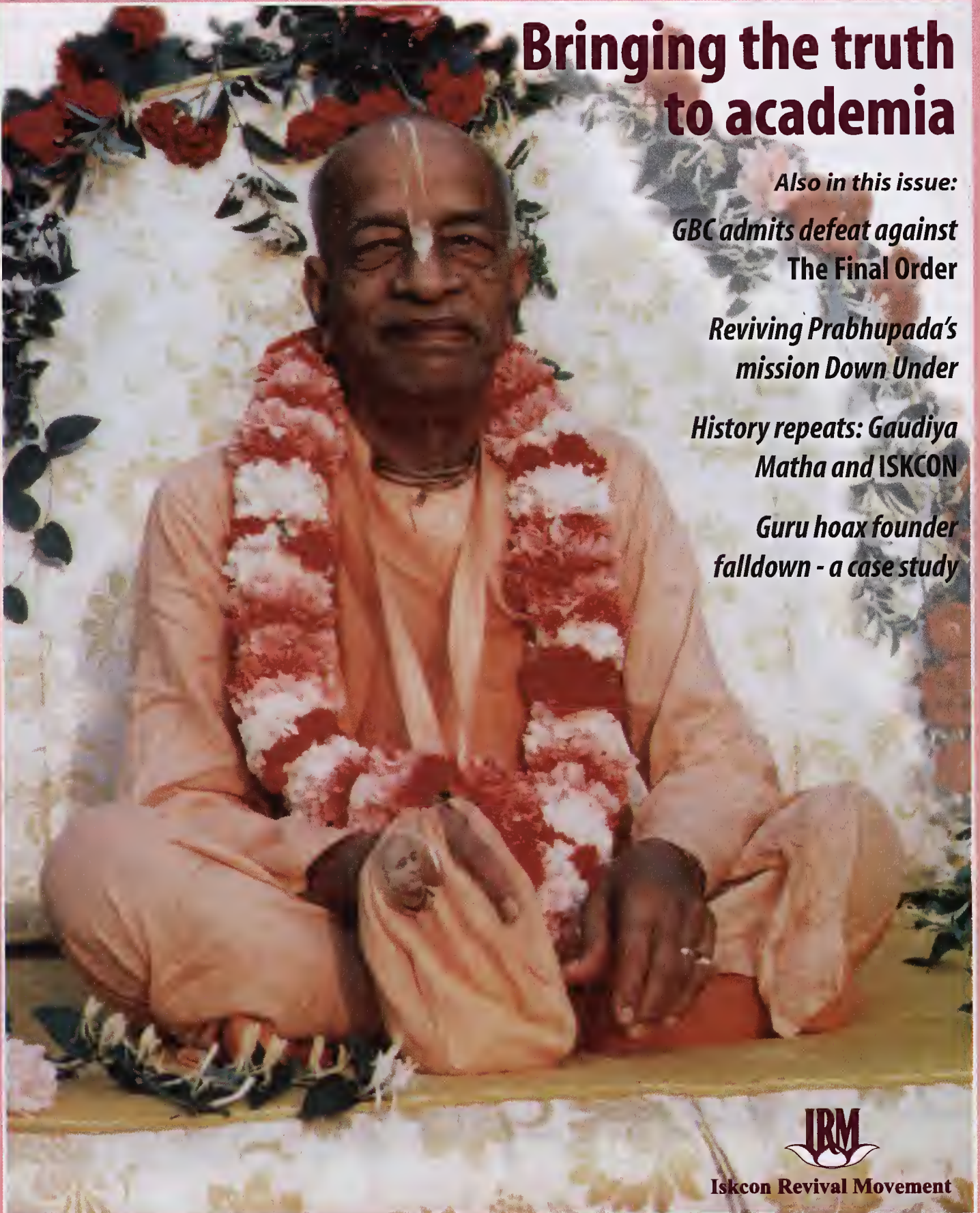
*Also in this issue:*

*GBC admits defeat against  
The Final Order*

*Reviving Prabhupada's  
mission Down Under*

*History repeats: Gaudiya  
Matha and ISKCON*

*Guru hoax founder  
falldown - a case study*



Iskcon Revival Movement



# Killing lies with “logic, reasoning and arguments”



## BACK TO PRABHUPADA

Published quarterly

**Publisher:** Sudama dasa, Texas, USA

**Editor:** Krishnakant

**Deputy Editor:** Yaduraja dasa

**Circulation:** IRM London

**Design:** Evoke Media, UK

Founded under the inspiration of **His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**, Founder-Acarya, International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)

### Contents Page

Letters to the Editor	3
The great Guru hoax: History repeats itself!	4
GBC Admits defeat against “The Final Order”	5
Letters to the Editor (contd.)	6
Srila Prabhupada: Our Diksa Guru	7
Coming to Prabhupada	8
IRM presents the truth at international academic conference	10
Myth-busters: Common myths about the GBC	11
27 years of deception: Case study of the Guru hoax founder	12
The evidence continues: What do the books say?	14
False Gurus imitate Srila Prabhupada	15
ISKCON Leader preaches Jesus not acarya hoax	16

Welcome to issue 4 of the quarterly *Back to Prabhupada* (BTP) magazine, and with this issue BTP will now have been publishing a whole year's worth of issues! We are here to stay; at least until the real Hare Krishna movement returns for the benefit of all the conditioned souls.

It will be noted that in this issue we are still printing letters sent by readers who had received issue 2! Such has been the response. Many readers have felt their lives going 'back to Prabhupada' simply due to the presence of this one magazine.

A major highlight of this issue is the report on page 10 from a scholarly conference which the IRM attended, where the world's foremost academic authorities on ISKCON were presented with evidence regarding Srila Prabhupada's position as the true *diksa* Guru (initiating spiritual master) of ISKCON. Also, on page 5 we document how the GBC have made an embarrassing U-turn and admitted that their 'final' position paper on the Guru issue, which *The Final Order* was written to address, was actually full of "lies", and has now had to be withdrawn!

Readers will have noted that though everything in the magazine is thoroughly documented with evidence, we definitely do not pull any punches. In this we are following the advice as given by Srila Prabhupada in his books:

*"Kṛṣṇa has two engagements: paritrāṇaya sadhunām vinasaya ca duṣkṛtām [Bg. 4.8] - giving protection to the sadhus, the devotees, and killing the demons. Kṛṣṇa gave protection to the Pandavas and Vṛṣṇis because they were devotees, and He also killed demons like Kamsa, Aghasura, and Bakasura. Of the two engagements, His killing of the demons was His major occupation. If we examine how much time He devoted to*

*killing and how much time He devoted to protecting, we shall find that He devoted more time to killing. Similarly, those who are Kṛṣṇa conscious should also kill—not by weapons but by logic, by reasoning, and by education. If one is a demon, we can use logic and arguments to kill his demoniac propensities and turn him into a devotee, a saintly person. Especially in this present age, Kali-yuga, people are already poverty-stricken, and physical killing is too much for them. They should be killed by argument, reasoning, and scientific spiritual understanding."*

(Teachings of Queen Kunti, chapter 24)

- Srila Prabhupada clearly says here that we in the Krishna conscious movement should ALSO spend MORE time in KILLING ("SIMILARLY those who are Kṛṣṇa conscious should also kill...").
- But this killing is done via "LOGIC, REASONING, and ARGUMENTS". Srila Prabhupada mentions these words TWICE in the short passage above. This will turn the demon into a SAINTLY PERSON.
- So the next time one thinks that BTP is simply full of arguments presented in a logical manner, please remember the above quote from *The Teachings of Queen Kunti*. For this arguing with logic and reason is actually part of the mission of the Krishna consciousness movement for THIS is how we will KILL the demons and turn them into devotees, saintly persons.

And practically we are witnessing this with many devotees returning to Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet. We say 'returning', because we have a crazy situation in ISKCON where:

- It is Srila Prabhupada's books

and teachings which attract people to taking up Krishna consciousness and joining ISKCON in the first place.

- Indeed, at that point new devotees are told they must accept Srila Prabhupada as a 'caretaker' Guru for the first 6 months.
- After this initial period people are then told to choose a different 'Guru' to worship.
- Then if that Guru falls down, guess what – yes, again you must return to the 'caretaker' Guru, Srila Prabhupada.
- And all throughout your spiritual life it is Srila Prabhupada's teachings and his discipline you must follow.

**But, here's the catch: Srila Prabhupada is NOT the Guru! Go figure!**

Well fortunately (though unfortunately for the 'Guru business'), more and more devotees ARE figuring it out, and accepting Srila Prabhupada only - and experiencing their spiritual lives improving dramatically as a result, as we will continue detailing in the pages of BTP.

Here's looking forward to another year of BTP. The magazine of the REAL Hare Krishna Movement.

Thank you. Hare Krishna and all glories to Srila Prabhupada!

**Krishnakant,  
Editor**

**For more information, and letters to the editor, please write to:**

Back to Prabhupada  
PO Box 1056, BUSHEY  
GREAT BRITAIN, WD23 3XH

or email:  
irm@iskconirm.com





# Letters to the Editor *(continued on page 6)*

"Dear IRM, thanks for the latest edition of Back to Prabhupada, it is a wonderfully inspiring magazine. I particularly found of interest the article regarding Harikesh acquiring a Million dollar property in France, obviously gained due to his being a FALSE Guru in Iskcon. How much money could be put back into prasadam distribution, book distribution, and looking after the WELFARE of families (especially children) who have made the sacrifice to leave behind the material world and take up a very austere life for Srila Prabhupada."  
Mark, Melbourne, Australia

"Firstly, let me congratulate you all on the wonderful work in the magazine Back To Prabhupada. It throws a lot of light on what the Gurus are doing instead of what they should be doing. This itself is the proof for all those pursuing spiritual life in ISKCON to get back to IRM and review their spiritual progress. I suggest all at ISKCON to embrace IRM and reinstate Srila Prabhupada as THE SPIRITUAL MASTER to every one of us and take the path to Godhead without any doubt. As it is, it is very difficult to advance in spiritual life. Why remain in speculation and suspicion whether my Guru will fall or if my Guru is safe for me, etc. etc? Rather, hold the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada and safely go back to Godhead. Hare Krishna. Your humble servant,"  
K. Karunakaran, Asst. Vice-President  
COFT, Bangalore, India

"I have read BTP. It was so wonderful and breaking out the truth that Prabhupada is our master, we should surrender unto his lotus feet."  
Yogaraja, Kelang, Malaysia

"It's about time the devotees have gotten information about the truth."  
Roberto Tafio, New York, USA

"I am not sure where to begin... I just got through reading BTP issue 2, winter 2003/4, which was loaned to me by a devotee. Part of me feels angry and the other part feels EXTREMELY sad.

I first came to ISKCON TORONTO about 6 years ago. Through Krsna's mercy and the books of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, I was able to know Sri Krsna. My journey towards full Krsna Consciousness and Krsna Prema has been slow... however, I am persevering.

However, having now read this magazine, I feel upset and confused (to say the least). Over the last year or so I have been making a conscious effort to become more Krsna Conscious, and living in maya this is often not an easy task. So now in hearing about the "corruption" going on with ISKCON, I feel overwhelmed... who can I TRUST??

The adage "Ignorance is bliss" is true, because when I was unaware I had less to think/worry about. On the other hand, however, now that I AM aware, I feel that I have no choice but to KNOW more... This magazine probably came at a good time as well, because I have been considering taking initiation and part of what has prevented me is the fact that I had the feeling that ONLY Srila Prabhupada could be my Guru, seeing as how it was He who brought me to Krsna Consciousness through his books. Now hearing about the "goings-on" in ISKCON, I feel that perhaps it was a good thing that I waited.

It saddens my heart to know that given all the sacrifices that Srila Prabhupada made to bring Krsna Consciousness to US, that it is being MISUSED AND MISAPPROPRIATED in this manner. More saddening is the fact that there are so many others, like myself, who are STRUGGLING to stay on the right path that Prabhupada set out, to have our TRUST abused by "leaders" we place our faith in.

Nonetheless, in hindsight, perhaps this is a lesson for me and others like me, to put our faith in ONLY Srila Prabhupada, for as he stated, he left us his books for this main reason, so that we will not have to look "elsewhere" but only to his books.

With many thanks,"  
Allison, Toronto, Canada

"Thank you for the two magazines you sent, which I read with interest. As an outsider to ISKCON but one with an ongoing interest in Krishna, I would like to share with you my own experiences. I first met Hare Krishna devotees at a festival back in 1976 – at the time I was impressed by their devotion, efficiency and energy. I spent some time on the Mobile Temple bus talking with devotees and chanting Hare Krishna. I still have in my possession the copy of the Krsna book they gave me. At that time, for personal reasons, I was not wanting to become committed and join. My interest remained, but on the back burner.

Some time later, in the early 1980's my interest revived somewhat, and after closely reading several of Srila Prabhupada's books, I went one day to Croome Court in Worcestershire, then an ISKCON centre, where Bhagavan was Guru. Then came 'Darshan'. I was aware immediately that here was a person with no spiritual presence or power. What I'd seen was definitely 'a society of cheaters and the cheated'. Clearly, something was wrong. How could I square this day's experience with the positive vibrations I'd got from the devotees in earlier times, or the content of Prabhupada's books? I felt there was no way, so I decided to 'go it alone' and give up the idea of finding a Guru in this particular lineage.

My suspicions have, of course, been confirmed since, and the pretender Bhagavan de-throned, and indeed, dishonoured. I feel it

was by the Grace of God that I was able to see through this person, who fooled many, straight away.

It would be great if you could be successful in removing these imposters and in restoring the spirit of the early days, and I wish you luck. But I think you face an uphill struggle. I have met several ISKCON devotees over the last few years, I have even given money (something I will have to reconsider given the valuable info in your magazine, as I don't want to pay for some idiot to imitate Harry Potter!). However, when I have tried to raise the question of the fallen 'Gurus' they dissemble, they either clam up or say they had problems, but it's all sorted out now.

In conclusion, I would just like to say again that once, Hare Krishna had a magic... a quality of sincerity, freshness, energy... I hope this can come back. I would also like to commend you for the work you are doing, and wish you God's blessings."

Andrew Casserly, Shrewsbury, UK

"Thank you very much... Well, it was a kind of refreshing relief; you know that feeling when you 'know that you are not alone'...?!!!! Somehow that was impregnated in my inner self after seeing, reading and enjoying your magazines BACK TO PRABHUPADA. It is factual. It is improving. It is a huge step to reach the goal, to expose all this 'General Body of Catastrophe sampradaya' and offenses against Srila Prabhupada, and to give a boost to the injured devotees. Srila Prabhupada - beloved example of a quality of pure devotee and spiritual master."

Mirja, Amsterdam, Holland

"I am surprised that I find myself agreeing more with IRM than I had expected. Could you be correct? How can I reject the current GBC, such a fallen soul as I?"  
Tamohara dasa, Ontario, Canada

# The great Guru hoax: History repeats itself!

In the previous issues of BTP we have documented the great Guru hoax which has been the basis for ISKCON's history and activities since the departure of Srila Prabhupada in 1977. This great Guru hoax was split into two parts, with part 1 of the Hoax in 1978 being the unauthorised creation of a group of successors to Srila Prabhupada. Part 2 of the hoax was subsequently opening the doors to allow anyone and everyone to be an unauthorised Guru successor. What is not so widely known is that this hoax is an almost exact replay of what happened over 60 years ago in the Gaudiya Matha, the organization created by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, who is Srila Prabhupada's spiritual master. Indeed, ISKCON was started by Srila Prabhupada because of the great Guru hoax which had destroyed his spiritual master's mission, the Gaudiya Matha. How ironic it is therefore, that the antidote to this great Guru hoax, ISKCON, has itself become gripped and destroyed by a similar Guru hoax. We will detail here the similarities of this amazing phenomenon.

## Great Guru hoax – Part 1

Before his departure Srila Prabhupada nominated no one as a Guru to succeed him. However, his leading secretaries who had been appointed only as 'ritviks', or his representatives, made plans to unauthorisedly install themselves as successor acaryas (Gurus). The Gaudiya Matha did the same thing, except they installed one acarya for the world, whereas in ISKCON they divided the world up into 11 zones, and installed 11 acaryas:

*"Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, at the time of his departure, requested all his disciples to form a governing body and conduct missionary activities cooperatively. He did not instruct a particular man to become the next acarya. But just*

*after his passing away, his leading secretaries made plans, without authority, to occupy the post of acarya, and they split into two factions over who the next acarya would be. Consequently, both factions were asara, or useless, because they had no authority, having disobeyed the order of the spiritual master."* (Caitanya-caritamṛta, Adi Lila, 12.8, purport)

*"In the latter days of my Guru Maharaja he was very disgusted. [...] Still he requested his disciples to form a strong Governing body for preaching the cult of Caitanya Mahaprabhu. He never recommended anyone to be acarya of the Gaudiya Math. But Sridhara Maharaja is responsible for disobeying this order of Guru Maharaja, and he and others who are already dead unnecessarily thought that there must be one acarya. If Guru Maharaja could have seen someone who was qualified at that time to be acarya he would have mentioned. Because on the night before he passed away he talked of so many things, but never mentioned an acarya. His idea was acarya was not to be nominated amongst the governing body. He said openly you make a GBC and conduct the mission. [...] So Sridhara Maharaja and his two associate gentlemen unauthorisedly selected one acarya and later it proved a failure."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Rupanuga, 28/4/74)

## Great Guru hoax - Part 2

Subsequently with the failure of foisting 11 acaryas on the movement, ISKCON responded by allowing many others to also have a shot at posing as unauthorised Gurus. So today we have 80 different Guru cults all vying for a piece of the ISKCON pie. Most of these Gurus are satisfied simply with expanding their own Guru cult. The Gaudiya Matha also split up into many different mathas, each

with their own unauthorised Guru in charge, following the failure of their acarya programme, with all these mathas also simply being satisfied with strengthening their own Guru cult:

*"Why this Gaudiya Matha failed? Because they tried to become more than Guru. [...] They declared some unfit person to become acarya. Then another man came, then another acarya, another acarya."*

(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, 16/8/76)

*"The result is now everyone is claiming to be acarya even though they may be kanistha adhikari with no ability to preach. In some of the camps the acarya is being changed three times a year."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Rupanuga, 28/4/74)

*"All are satisfied with a place for residence in the name of a temple, they engage disciples to get food-stuff by transcendental devices and eat and sleep. They have no idea or brain how to broadcast the cult of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Rupanuga, 28/4/74)

## Conclusion

Srila Prabhupada made the following cautionary prophecy whilst mentioning the great Guru hoax of the Gaudiya Matha referred to above. He said:

*"Therefore we may not commit the same mistake in our ISKCON camp."*

(Srila Prabhupada Letter To Rupanuga, 28/4/74)

Unfortunately this warning was not heeded, and as we have seen, exactly the same mistake WAS committed.

It is said that history repeats itself because human nature repeats itself:



**Like Srila Prabhupada, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Maharaja was also betrayed by his leading secretaries.**

*"You can simply refer the history that the same thing is... 'History repeats itself.' When there was Roman Empire, Mogul Empire, the same strife, the same political dissension, the same fight."*

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, Montreal, June 16th, 1968)

Unfortunately, as long as that nature of deviating from the order of the spiritual master, that nature of desiring followers, that nature to desire to sit in the seat of one's Guru remains, naturally history will indeed keep repeating itself.

To end, we would like to issue the following call to our brothers in the current GBC, who unfortunately are still consumed with this nature; a call which was given originally by Srila Prabhupada to his Godbrothers, due to the havoc THEY had wreaked with THEIR great Guru hoax:

23. *If everyone just initiates then there will only be a contradictory result. As long as it goes on, there will be only failure.*
29. *O shame! My dear brothers aren't you embarrassed? In the manner of businessmen you increase your disciples.*
39. *You have become renouncers, brothers, so renounce everything. But if you also renounce the order of the spiritual master, then what kind of renunciation is that?*

(Vyasa-Puja Offering To Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, made by Srila Prabhupada in 1961)



# GBC Admits Defeat Against *The Final Order*

In 1995, the GBC in their wisdom decided to issue a definitive document on the Guru issue for ISKCON titled: "Gurus and Initiation in ISKCON" (GBC, 1995), [henceforward to be referred to as GII]. Part of this document was a paper entitled "On My Order Understood", in which the GBC attempted to explain once and for all what Srila Prabhupada's orders were for how initiations in ISKCON would continue after his physical departure. The GBC said of this paper:

*"The GBC approves of the paper entitled 'On My Order Understood' which establishes as ISKCON law the final siddhanta on Srila Prabhupada's desire for continuing the disciplic succession after the departure of His Divine Grace."*  
[See Part II: GBC Position Papers in this volume.] (GII, p.1)

As can be seen the GBC were so confident of their paper that they used redundant English by stating it offered the "final siddhanta". A siddhanta or conclusion is by definition always final!

"The Final Order" (TFO), the definitive position paper of the IRM documenting Srila Prabhupada's position as the Diksa Guru for ISKCON, was written specifically in response to the above



**Sivarama Swami: admits GBC paper contains "lies"**

GBC paper, taking it as its reference point. As TFO itself states in its very SECOND sentence:

*"Although we will refer to several papers and articles that have been published by senior ISKCON devotees on this subject, the main points of reference will be the GBC's most recent official handbook on initiation entitled, 'Gurus And Initiation In ISKCON' (to be referred to henceforward as GII), and the paper 'On My Order Understood' which is mentioned under section 1.1 of the 'Laws of ISKCON:'"*  
(*"The Final Order, Introduction, 1996*)

TFO then goes on to dismantle the arguments put forward in GII.

After 8 long years, the GBC have finally admitted that their so-called 'final siddhanta' paper, the main target of TFO's attack, was not only not final, but completely bogus, as the following resolution passed this year at the GBC meetings states:

409. Continuing the  
Disciplic Succession  
[Statement]

## WHEREAS:

The paper "On My Order-Understood" contains assumptions and assertions that, in numerous places, do not match the available evidence from the statements of Srila Prabhupada,

And the GBC desires to make a more concise statement,

## RESOLVED:

"On My Order-Understood" is replaced as official GBC policy by the following statement:

*The GBC officially accepts the following conclusions about continuing the disciplic succession:*

*Srila Prabhupada consistently said that his disciples would themselves become spiritual masters. Guru, sadhu, and sastra all sup-*

*port this standard way of continuing the disciplic succession. Srila Prabhupada said that his disciples would become "regular Gurus" and that each of their disciples would thus be a "disciple of my disciple." On the strength of our Vaisnava tradition and the statements of Srila Prabhupada, the GBC concludes that Srila Prabhupada intended his disciples to become "regular Gurus" after he physically departed.*

[GBC Resolution 409, 2004]

In addition, whilst submitting the reasons for ditching their official paper, Sivarama and Jayadvaita Swamis, the persons behind the resolution, actually state that this final Siddhanta GBC paper contains "lies", and that it "stretches the truth and contains poor logic".

As we can see from the above resolution, whilst admitting that their paper is basically a fabrication, the GBC are happy to re-state the same conclusions, only this time with no fabricated quotes from Srila Prabhupada to support their position. Rather they rest their whole philosophical position on just one piece of evidence: An allusion to one line which Srila Prabhupada speaks on a tape, and which does not even say what they claim. Srila Prabhupada states on May 28th, 1977 the following:

*"When I order you become Guru, he becomes regular Guru. That's all. He becomes disciple of my disciple."*

Srila Prabhupada here clearly states that Gurus will emerge only WHEN he gives an order to that effect - "When I order you become Guru" - and as the GBC seem now to concede, such an order was never given. For this reason the GBC have had to fabricate the following account:

*"Srila Prabhupada said that his*

*disciples would become "regular Gurus" and that each of their disciples would thus be a "disciple of my disciple."*

Please spot the huge difference between what Srila Prabhupada actually says and the GBC fabrication. Srila Prabhupada does NOT say that his disciples "WOULD BECOME regular Gurus". He states that only WHEN he orders them to become Guru, do they become Guru, not that they WOULD become Guru. And the authors of this latest GBC resolution have the cheek to say the paper it replaces contained - "assertions that, in numerous places, do not match the available evidence from the statements of Srila Prabhupada", yet we see their latest effort is no better.

In ditching their 'final siddhanta' paper the GBC have effectively admitted that 'The arguments and evidence which we put forward to reach our conclusion were completely wrong, and we are not offering any alternative argument or evidence, but we still want to say that the conclusion - that we be allowed to operate a Guru program replacing Srila Prabhupada - is correct.'

Thus the GBC's programme is simply to be 'Gurus at all costs'. First they tried to do it by instituting the Guru Hoax part 1 - the zonal acarya system. When that failed they tried Guru Hoax part 2 - the everyone and anyone can be Guru programme - justified by the now discarded "On My Order Understood" paper. This continual changing of position papers to try and keep the 'Guru business' on the road was thoroughly condemned by Srila Prabhupada:

*"So these rascals will change every year their theology"*

(Srila Prabhupada, morning walk, LA 21/12/73)

# Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

"I have received the two issues of Back to Prabhupada. These articles are really making me think. I have attended several lectures of many Gurus of ISKCON in the last 3 years. I never got a clearer picture on anything and got more and more confused and that was the reason why I had asked you a few questions in my earlier mails and I am thankful I did. I was thinking about whom to take initiation from, though it was not going to happen in the immediate future as I feel I have a lot to learn... It is heartening to know that I might with Krishna's causeless mercy still have Srila Prabhupada as my Guru. The fact that there is such a chance itself would spur me to do my rounds regularly and read more. I am so thankful that I had accidentally bumped into the IRM website. I hope to have continued enlightening responses from you to my queries in days to come. Jai Sri Krishna. Regards,"  
Dipankar Deb, Florida, USA

"May the Lord continue to give you His strength to spread the word! Hari bol!"  
A. Arya, USA

"Haribol. Thank you for sending me the BTP magazines. I received them yesterday and read much of them last night, what insights! After reading Srila Prabhupada's letters and directives, who could ever be involved with Iskcon and all their bogus Gurus again! The Gurus have destroyed Iskcon. Srila Prabhupada is the only Guru! These magazines are so valuable, as they tell the TRUTH! Thank you for all your hard work! Goodness and the Truth always win. Hare Krishna and Best Wishes."  
Richard Gemberg, Stratford, CT, USA

"We are pleased to receive an opportunity to read your published book, 'The Final Order' and the first 2 issues of 'Back to Prabhupada'."  
Louise and David, Queensland, Australia

"Dear Sudama Prabhu,  
I truly enjoyed your article in Back to Prabhupada. I totally understand the need to put Prabhupada first. I was initiated by one of the original eleven. Prabhupada isn't called JAGAT GURU because the name sounds nice or powerful. This is who he is for the next 10,000 years. Thanks again for sharing."  
John Smith (by email)

"Please send some more BTPs (1&2) for distribution if possible. A much needed magazine at this critical time when many devotees are confused about what went wrong with Iskcon! Through BTP & IRM I personally found back my shelter at the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada, my eternal Spiritual Master. Jay Srila Prabhupada! Hare Krishna! Thank you all - keep up the noble work!!"  
Krishna Priya Devi Dasi,  
Amsterdam, Holland

"Due to Krishna's mercy, I was very delighted to receive the magazine Back to Prabhupada. It is very strange to note these souls could not capitalise their past karma, wearing a robe, putting a chandan tilak, carrying chanting beads, these souls have only managed to fool themselves. Every thing that exists in the three worlds belongs to Sri Sri Rahde Govind. I was laughing when I read the great Guru hoax and senior deviators. Incidentally I have met some of these unfortunate souls during my stay in Australia. I offer my prayer to our beloved Guru and Sri Radhe Govind to forgive them and to have mercy. I am fortunate that I could write this letter to you prabhu. We wholeheartedly support the IRM.  
Hare Krishna."

Surendra Menon, Mumbai, India

"Shocked but need to know more."  
P. Joshi, Middlesex, England

"I received a free copy of Back to Prabhupada and read it through. Though for many reasons I am not and never will be a Ritvik follower, I was very pleased by your effort. First of all, I am pleased by the fact that your endeavors seem to be meeting with some success. I am a great fan of success, because I recognize it as the result of sincere work and Krishna's mercy. So this alone has much to commend it.

But more than this, I appreciate that the IRM is functioning as a strong voice of opposition to the Iskcon status quo. By calling for openness, transparency and accountability in Iskcon's leadership, you are the de facto opposition in a one party state. I have always appreciated that the IRM is the voice of democracy in Iskcon, and this latest article on the personal financial statements of Iskcon's leaders is a perfect example of you doing a job that is absolutely necessary.

Though The Final Order is the IRM's founding document, the spirit of Protestantism and Democracy pervades your movement. These are significant developments for the future of Krishna consciousness, and I hope that you will do them honor through loyal adherence to your values.

Your servant,"  
Dr. Jan Brzezinski, Montreal, Canada

"Hare Krsna! I have received a copy of 'Back to Prabhupada' by post last week. I am a Life Member at Juhu Iskcon. After reading the copy of BTP I am certainly very eager to know all there is to know on this matter. I would like to read 'The Final Order'. Be so kind as to send a copy to us. Besides I would also like to know how we can join the family of Back to Prabhupada."  
Padma Mazumdar, Mumbai, India

"Love the IRM temple - the devotees exhibit real Vaisnava (and saintly) qualities of compassion, love, humility. Unlike the puffed-up and arrogant (so-called) devotees in ISKCON. My family feels so welcome there! BTP Ki Jaya! No dry philosophy or mental speculation here - good job!"  
Akara Dasi, New York, USA

"Please keep up the good work - nobody has done a better service to Srila Prabhupada than IRM."  
Mr Suk Shah, Minnesota, USA

"I very much enjoyed your 3 issues of BTP. I have been associated with Iskcon since 1983. I was just about to be initiated when Visnupada Bhavananda Goswami fell down due to his homosexual affairs! Still waiting to be properly initiated."  
Bhakta Roger, Queensland, Australia

"I lived and served in Sri Dham Mayapur for a few years. I have seen so many 'weird' things there. But I have all the answers in BTP now. Jaya Srila Prabhupada!"  
Bhaktin Ananthi, Panang, Malaysia

"Truth should be made available to all for the ultimate benefit of mankind."  
Dipak Ghosh, New York, USA

"I am very inquisitive to know the Truth."  
Subodh Dalal, Govindas Restaurant, Vrindavana, India

"BTP is so attractive, like the Holy Name, when people have a copy and read it, instead of discarding like some mundane periodical, BTP becomes a cherished companion.

I think that the the factual "calling to account" of prominent would-be ISKCON leaders should continue, backed with the ever-fresh quotes from Srila Prabhupada."  
Julyan Richardson,  
Southampton, England



# Srila Prabhupada: Our *Diksa* Guru

## An initiating (diksa) Guru must be specifically authorised

The current ISKCON Guru system rests on the fallacy that following the physical departure of Srila Prabhupada in 1977, all of his 10,000 disciples were automatically eligible to become initiating Gurus and thereby accept disciples for themselves. As we see below, this invented idea of 'automatic Guruship' is directly contradicted by Srila Prabhupada. Rather, Srila Prabhupada teaches us that an initiating Guru must receive specific authorisation from his predecessor initiating Guru before he can accept disciples. And since we know that on July 9th, 1977 Srila Prabhupada only authorised ritviks (priests) to initiate disciples on his behalf, we know that anyone claiming to be an initiating Guru in ISKCON is therefore unauthorised.



"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is **authorised by his predecessor spiritual master**. This is called diksa-vidhana."  
(SB 4.8.54, purport)

"Guru cannot be self-made. No. There is no such single instance throughout the whole Vedic literature. And nowadays, so many rascals, they are becoming Guru without any authority. That is not Guru. **You must be authorised**. Evam parampara-praptam imam ra... As soon as the parampara is...kalena yogo nasta parantapa, immediately finished. The spiritual potency finished. You can dress like a Guru, you can talk big, big words, but it will never be effective."  
(Srila Prabhupada's Lecture, February 27th 1977, Mayapur, India)

"A Guru can be Guru **when he is ordered by his Guru**.  
That's all. Otherwise **nobody** can become Guru."  
(SP Bg. Lecture, 28th October 1975)

"Self-made Guru cannot be Guru. **He must be authorised by the bona fide Guru**. Then he's Guru. This is the fact...Similarly, bona fide Guru means **he must be authorised by the superior Guru**."  
(SP NOD Lecture, October 31, 1972)

"**Therefore Guru must be authorised person**, not that bhumi-phala-Guru. No. "I am Guru," no. You cannot become Guru unless you are agent to draw out the mercy water from the ocean of mercy of Krsna. That is Guru. And therefore a Guru is not an ordinary person. He is the representative, bona fide representative of Krsna."  
(SB Lecture, November 30, 1976)

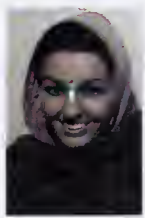
"Vallabha Bhatta wanted to be initiated by Gadadhara Pandita, but Gadadhara Pandita refused, saying, "The work of acting as a spiritual master is not possible for me."  
"I am completely dependent. My Lord is Gauracandra, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu."  
**I cannot do anything independently, without His order.**"  
(CC, Antya 7:150-151)

"The schoolmasters in the modern days are paid agents for giving some information, but the spiritual master is not a paid agent. **Nor can he impart instruction without being authorised**."  
(SB:2.9.43, purport)

## IRM Mission Statement

**S**ince the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *Diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *Diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page for order details.

# Coming to Prabhupada



## On a mission Down Under

by Shrikari Devi  
Dasi, Tasmania,  
Australia

**M**y first introduction to Krishna Consciousness was as a young child. I grew up in Tasmania - an island off the south coast of Australia, quite a small population but a very friendly place. My mother, being a big fan and in later life a good friend of George Harrison, would play his songs, and that is how I first heard the Holy Names of the Hare Krishna mantra.

I was raised in my dad's church as a Jehovah's Witness, which actually I really enjoyed because I liked the preaching aspect of the faith. Jehovah's Witnesses are not supposed to read or listen to media about other religions - but my mother continued to play the music, especially in the mornings when driving us to school. So really, throughout my entire childhood I was getting some wonderful mercy - I just wasn't aware of it!

Late in my teens, I decided, as most young people at my church did, that I'd had enough and decid-

**"You know, I do not want to be initiated by one of these Gurus. I have been reading Srila Prabhupada's books, and I feel that none of these Gurus are as qualified as Srila Prabhupada. Why SHOULD I take initiation from anyone who is less qualified than he?"**

ed to leave home and do my own thing. Being a typical teenager I was pretty scattered for a while and didn't really know what direction I was heading in. I just floated along day to day and had no real purpose in life.

One day, as I had reached what seemed to me at that time the lowest point in my life, I was walking through the city when I saw some devotees on book distribution. This was a very unusual sight in our city because we live on an island and the closest temple is in another state on the mainland. It is not often that devotees come here for book distribution, so I instantly took this as some sort of "sign".

Having remembered the songs I heard as a child, I decided to speak to the devotees. They were very nice and helpful and answered all my questions, so I took their invitation to go to a programme being held in a local hall that weekend. What I heard totally amazed me, and so many things spoken made me think, "Hey! these guys are really onto something!"

So I took some books and started reading. I was instantly attracted to Srila Prabhupada and his books and just absorbed myself in them, reading all of the books that I could get my hands on. In the time that I had spent away from my father's church I had built up my own ideas and beliefs about things of a spiritual nature - and now here was Srila Prabhupada talking to me through his books, confirming to me the things I believed, and explaining it in such detail and presenting it so nicely. I knew that Krishna Consciousness is what I had really been searching for all my life. However, I felt very isolated here because I could not find any other devotees, so I decided that the best thing to do would

be to travel and associate with fellow devotees. Srila Prabhupada would say that association was very important.

So off I went travelling, staying at various temples and farms in Melbourne, Newcastle, Cessnock, Brisbane, Murwillumbah and Sydney, doing some nice service for Krishna and meeting many devotees in many different places.

It was not long into my travels that I became aware that all was not well within ISKCON. Often I would overhear other devotees talking about many problems, but of course they would always try to make sure that I never heard any of it - because I was the "new" devotee and they had obviously seen other devotees turn away from Krishna Consciousness because of these problems. I am sure that those devotees were acting in what they believed to be the mode of goodness, not wanting me to be scared away from Krishna Consciousness, but in actuality it had exactly the opposite effect. I felt as though things were being hidden, which made me feel very uncomfortable.

As I continued to travel from one place to another and started to realise more about some of the activities of the so-called ISKCON "Gurus" who were at the root of the problems, I eventually came to the conclusion that ISKCON really wasn't operating the way that Srila Prabhupada would have wanted, and so I decided to go back into secular society and work a regular day job, removing myself from any real close association with a temple and just attending Sunday programmes and practising Krishna Consciousness at home.

My work took me to the USA where I travelled extensively,

working as the chief company representative. It was very tiring work, and the whole time I increasingly felt the need to settle down and concentrate my focus more on Krishna.

On what was supposed to be a short visit back home in Australia, after a muddle up with my US visa, I married my husband, Arjuna. I became pregnant, and now with us both working for the same company, we were travelling again. After our baby was born, we decided that we would like to stay at a devotee community and settle down. This was going to be a real leap of faith for both of us, because of my previous experiences and Arjuna having never stayed at one before. Unfortunately, it just didn't work out at all, and wherever we went we encountered many problems, all stemming from either authorities with over-inflated egos, or leaders that simply did not care about what was happening within the communities.

During this time we became very good friends with a very nice devotee, who also was aware of some of the problems at the farm where we stayed. This devotee gave us so much encouragement to continue in Krishna Consciousness and one day invited us to talk with his Guru, who invited us to meet him in India and perhaps there take initiations from him. Arjuna and I were talking about this one morning when he commented to me:

*"You know, I do not want to be initiated by one of these Gurus. I have been reading Srila Prabhupada's books, and I feel that none of these Gurus are as qualified as Srila Prabhupada. Why SHOULD I take initiation from anyone who is less qualified than he? I think I shall simply continue to read his books, and by following his instructions I*



*will receive my initiation into spiritual life that way."*

There was no more discussion on the matter. Our friend left the farm just days later to travel extensively with his Guru, and having felt that the only devotee helping to maintain some sanity in our community had now gone, we decided to leave also.

We were back to square one. Isolated and cut off from any temple, but burning with a passion to spread Krishna Consciousness and distribute Srila Prabhupada's wonderful books, we returned to our home town with the mission of starting a blissful house programme and preaching centre. Our goal was to one day evolve into a Krishna conscious farming community of like-minded devotees, with a nice cow protection programme too. But where to start?

The first thing I did was to search the Internet for some association with other devotees. Perhaps we would find other devotees in a similar situation to our own, and we could share ideas with them. After weeks of searching for Vaisnava websites which at least truly represented Srila Prabhupada, I finally came across the [www.harekrishnatemple.com](http://www.harekrishnatemple.com) website, run by Sudama dasa and Bhaktin Christina. It was a nicely presented site, and one thing especially caught my attention: a little web "button" which read: "Read The Truth About ISKCON's Bogus Guru System."

Naturally, I instantly clicked to see what it was about - I was taken to the IRM's website, and was dumbfounded by what I read! I had known that there were more than a few bad practices going on within ISKCON, but I had no idea as to the extent. And now I was reading that their whole Guru

system is a complete fraud!

So I spent the next 2 days reading through the IRM site, carefully analysing just what it was I was reading. My husband Arjuna Prabhupada was left wondering just what was going on this whole time; but being a lot newer to Krishna Consciousness than me, I refused to let him read any of it until I was certain it was indeed true - for fear of confusing him any further.

Everything that was presented there confirmed what I had previously believed, and now Arjuna had been reassured that he had been correct when he had stated he should not be initiated by anyone other than Srila Prabhupada.

We wanted to contact the IRM to talk to them about their mission further, but it took us a little while to do so, as we were not quite sure what to expect. Eventually we made contact and were very happy that we had done so. Many questions that had bothered us were answered clearly, and now finally we had met devotees who, like us, wanted nothing more than to see ISKCON restored to its former glory and to serve Srila Prabhupada.

Now we had the confidence to go about starting our own centre for preaching right here in Tasmania. We made a start straightaway, making plans for regular book and prasadam distribution at local markets. Our home has been transformed into a Prabhupada-focused Krishna conscious centre which we are now using for preaching programmes and Sunday feasts. Soon though, we will have outgrown our house and we have already started looking for a larger, more permanent preaching centre.

Any opportunity we get for preaching we seize immediately - and recently had some nice success distributing books to fellow workers at a farm where we were engaged in some seasonal work. Being web designers and knowledgeable in multimedia, we also set about putting the skills that we had learnt in our secu-

lar careers to work by creating a lovely website for our preaching centre. The site is still being updated as there is always so much happening, and we will announce its official launch in due course!

The Internet has played a big role in helping us with our preaching and so we have been helping many other devotees to build their own websites to help preach Prabhupada's message in their own towns and countries. I have recently started a part-time course at college to complement this, as the Internet is such a powerful tool for preaching in the modern age, and I am hoping to learn more diverse ways to spread Srila Prabhupada's original movement.

In the near future we plan to acquire land and start our own cow protection programme - we have even had a cow already offered to us by a local organic dairy. With such a beautiful place here for preaching and with people so receptive to hearing about Lord Krishna, we feel very confident that Srila Prabhupada's real



ISKCON will expand very nicely here. There is still a lot of work to be done, but I always remember that when we are following the direction of Srila Prabhupada sincerely we can't go wrong.

I am very thankful every day that events in my life led me to the shelter of Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet, and with each new day I am excited to see the IRM devotees working so hard to restore his movement to the way he wanted it to be. I am very humbled to be part of it, Krishna's mercy has been very kind to me.

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!  
Hare Krishna.

If you would like to help in developing Shrikari and Arjuna's Prabhupada-centred preaching programmes in Tasmania, please write to us at: [irm@iskconirm.com](mailto:irm@iskconirm.com)

**Readers are cordially invited to follow Shikari's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.**



# IRM presents the truth at international academic conference

## Introduction by Yaduraja dasa, Deputy Editor

Since the launch of Back to Prabhupada (BTP) last October, the ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM)'s campaign to reform ISKCON based on Srila Prabhupada's original instructions has attracted a huge amount of interest, not only within ISKCON itself of course, but also amongst scholars and the media.

In issue 2 we reported on the highly successful conference hosted last October by the American Family Foundation (AFF), the world's leading anti-cult organisation, at which the IRM was invited to speak on the ISKCON Guru hoax.

Scholarly interest in the IRM's philosophical research has increased dramatically since then, with some of the world's leading academics on religious movements requesting copies of our foundational book *The Final Order* (see also page 5 – "GBC admits defeat against *The Final Order*"), as well as copies of BTP itself.

This in turn has led to our biggest academic preaching invitation to date – a presentation to the annual conference of CESNUR, the Centre for Studies on New Religions. The conference is the largest world gathering of those active in the field of studies on new religions, and delegates typically include not only scholars, educators and graduate students, but also lawyers, judges, law enforcement officials, pastors, mental health professionals and journalists.

CESNUR's published aim is to "promote scholarly research in the field of new religious consciousness, to spread reliable and responsible information, and to expose the very real problems associated with some movements, while at the same time defending everywhere the principles of religious liberty."

In this prestigious environ-

ment, the IRM's presentation "exposed the very real problems" in ISKCON, while at the same time "defended the principles of religious liberty" denied to so many of Srila Prabhupada's disciples in ISKCON. Here follows a brief report on the conference.



IRM delegates and scholars interact at the conference

## CESNUR 2004

### Conference report

by Cathy Vaughan, Texas, USA

Waco, Texas was the poignant setting for this year's annual CESNUR conference on the theme of "Religious Movements, Conflict and Democracy". Scholars and other expert commentators on religious movements and cults descended for the three-day meeting of minds at Baylor University, lasting from June 18-20 (with the welcome reception held on the evening of June 17). With the IRM due to speak on the final day, the editor of BTP and the author of *The Final Order*, Krishnakant, was invited to some private meetings beforehand for one-on-one discussions with scholars on just what has been happening within ISKCON, both in terms of the GBC's continuing philosophical U-turns, as well as the attempts by various ISKCON leaders to suppress the truth by harassing, intimidating, banning and in some cases beating IRM devotees – all cases of which are being meticulously documented.

The conference attracted many delegates, with the big themes including the study of new religious movements in the 21st century, 50 years of the Unification

Church (the "Moonies") and the Church of Scientology, and of course the Branch Davidians tragedy at Waco a decade ago, which included a field trip to the scene of the disaster.

The official programme advertised the IRM session as: "ISKCON

Controversies - Krishnakant Desai will present the position of the ISKCON Revival Movement, opening the floor to responses and interacting with scholars."

As with the AFF conference in October, Krishnakant delivered a very powerful Powerpoint presentation which was projected on to a large screen. The title of the talk was "ISKCON: 25 Years of the Guru Controversy".

The IRM presentation took us right up to 2004 to show, using concrete examples, how the GBC continues to unscrupulously manipulate Srila Prabhupada's philosophy and instructions to justify the existence of diksa Guru successors and Guru falldowns. It particularly contrasted the great achievements and appreciation of Srila Prabhupada with the scandal and shame which has beset ISKCON's false Guru program since Srila Prabhupada's departure. The IRM's recognition by both academia and the media, and the progress in their publishing work, were also highlighted. It ended with a chronological timeline that charted the acquisition of power and Guruship by the GBC-Guru oligopoly from 1977 to the present day.

Particularly appreciated by the audience was the brilliant

exposé of the GBC's academic deceptions on the Guru issue perpetrated by Dr. Howard Resnick (Hridayananda dasa Goswami) and the posthumously awarded PhD recipient Dr. Thomas Herzig (Tamala Krsna Goswami). The documented contradictions and U-turns of these two self-authorised ISKCON Gurus was dizzying to watch, and rather entertaining too! More seriously, Krishnakant showed how even some independent academics had been sold the lie about the appointment of Gurus, and he provided evidence of the cult tactics and violence ISKCON leaders employ in their attempts to silence the voices of those who are exposing the truth.

The end of the slideshow presentation, which lasted for half-an-hour, was in fact just the beginning! Following the presentation, the senior organisers and scholars at the conference engaged Krishnakant in a discussion for over 1 hour on the ISKCON Guru hoax. It was a most lively session, with many questions being asked and answered expertly. In particular, the scholars attempted to evaluate the reform taking place in ISKCON in an historic context, and they were also very interested in hearing about all the changes which have occurred in ISKCON to the present day. The point that the movement in the West seems to be now catering almost exclusively for the local Hindu population was especially noted as a sign of how the movement's missionary zeal had declined.

At the end of a very enlivening and enlightening session, business cards were exchanged, many more contacts were made from around the world, and most importantly the truth was broadcast to one of the most influential gatherings of religious experts in the world.

The Powerpoint slideshow can be downloaded from: [www.iskconirm.com/CESNUR04.zip](http://www.iskconirm.com/CESNUR04.zip)



# Myth-busters: Common Myths About the GBC

## 1) "Srila Prabhupada gave the GBC the authority to manage ISKCON in any way they saw fit."

**False:** The GBC were only ever authorised to carry out the orders exactly as they had been given by Srila Prabhupada:

*"Resolved: The GBC (Governing Body Commission) has been established by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada to represent Him in carrying out the responsibility of managing the International Society for Krishna Consciousness of which He is the Founder-Acarya and supreme authority. The GBC accepts as its life and soul His divine instructions and recognises that it is completely dependent on His mercy in all respects. The GBC has no other function or purpose other than to execute the instructions so kindly given by His Divine Grace and preserve and spread His Teachings to the world in their pure form."*

(Definition of GBC, Resolution 1, GBC minutes 1975 as personally approved by Srila Prabhupada)

This means that the GBC are an executive body only. They can only execute the instructions which Srila Prabhupada has already given – NOT MAKE UP THEIR OWN NEW ONES. Hence, according to the above definition, any body which does not act under the parameters above has forfeited its right to call itself the GBC, and is in fact no longer the GBC. Just as if the Police force suddenly began arresting innocent citizens and protecting the criminals, they would no longer be the Police since they would be acting in opposition to their very definition.

## 2) "Srila Prabhupada's Last Will and Testament States the GBC is 'the ultimate managing authority' for ISKCON, and therefore they were authorised to stop the Ritvik system once Srila Prabhupada departed."

**False:** The VERY next clause of the Last Will and Testament, as we noted in BTP 2, states the following:

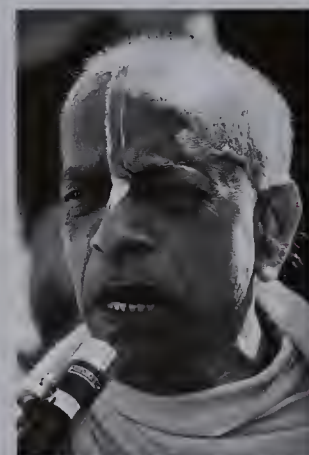
*"The system of management will continue as it is now and there is no need of any change."*

(Srila Prabhupada's Declaration of Will, 4th June, 1977)

The ritvik system was Srila Prabhupada's chosen way of managing initiations within ISKCON. And we saw in myth no.1 above that the GBC can only act within the parameters of the definition Srila Prabhupada gave them. Hence as the ultimate 'managing' authority, the GBC were expected to continue managing initiations in ISKCON in the manner which Srila Prabhupada had already ordered – which was the Ritvik system as set out in the July 9th directive sent to all GBCs and Temple Presidents (a copy of which was reproduced in BTP 1). The GBC had no right to terminate that system, and then concoct their own. As Srila Prabhupada warned:

*"The standards I have already given you, now try to maintain them at all times under standard procedure. Do not try to innovate or create anything or manufacture anything, that will ruin everything."*

(SP Letter to Bali Mardan and Pusta Krsna, 18/9/72)



## 3) "Srila Prabhupada wanted us to follow whatever the GBC said, even if they were wrong."

**False:** Nowhere did Srila Prabhupada ever say such a thing. Indeed when in 1972 the GBC attempted to introduce an unauthorised centralization system, Srila Prabhupada actually suspended the functioning of the GBC:

*I AUTHORIZE YOU TO DISREGARD FOR THE TIME BEING ANY DECISION FROM THE GBC MEN UNTIL MY FURTHER INSTRUCTION.*

*You manage your affairs peacefully and independently, and try to improve the spiritual atmosphere of the centers more carefully. [...] Finally, I beg to repeat that ALL GBC ORDERS ARE SUSPENDED HEREWITH BY ME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.*

(Letter to all Temple Presidents, 8/4/72)

*"But I have been very much disturbed recently by the meeting which you all have had in New York, wherein you have passed so many resolutions and elected Atreya Rsi to GBC Secretary, and made so many other changes. I am very much puzzled by the whole business. Therefore I have not approved of it, and you may by now have received my letter why I have temporarily suspended the GBC. [...] From now on, the temples will operate independently and try to improve their spiritual life more carefully, so there is no more need for such financial arrangement of centralization, as you have proposed."*

(Letter to Satsvarupa, 10/4/72)

So the GBC are not a law unto themselves but must follow the directives of Srila Prabhupada, otherwise they have no authority to act.

## 4) "The GBC were authorised by Srila Prabhupada to rubber stamp new initiating Gurus via a majority voting system."

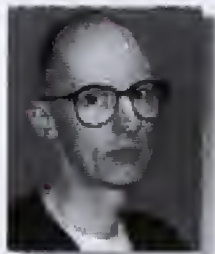
**False:** Nowhere did Srila Prabhupada ever mention such a system as currently practiced by the GBC; in fact he specifically warned against such unauthorised practices:

*"Mundane votes have no jurisdiction to elect a Vaisnava acarya. A Vaisnava acarya is self effulgent, and there is no need for any court judgement."*  
(C.c. Madhya, 1.220, purport)

*"Srila Jiva Gosvami advises that one not accept a spiritual master in terms of hereditary or customary social, and ecclesiastical conventions."*  
(C.c. Adi, 1.35, purport)



# 27 Years of Deception: Case Study of the



In this article we trace the sad history of Satsvarupa, once a leading disciple of Srila Prabhupada who performed great service, but who later became the founder of the great Guru hoaxes parts 1 and 2 (as described in BTP 1). Recently he was forced to publicly admit to an illicit affair with a married woman, yet, as we shall see, is so deluded he still feels fit to act as a Guru. This article proves what a disaster ISKCON's unauthorised Guru system is, both for the disciples who waste their entire lives worshipping a mundane person (rather than the bona fide representative of Krishna - Srila Prabhupada), and for the bogus Gurus themselves, who invariably end up at the fag end of their days exposed as lying charlatans.

## Architect Of Great Guru Hoax Part 1

Straight after Srila Prabhupada's physical departure Satsvarupa, who was one of the eleven devotees selected to act only as ritviks (officiating priests initiating on Srila Prabhupada's behalf), declared that he had actually been appointed as a fully fledged initiating Guru to whom all worship and wealth must be directed. Satsvarupa and the other ritviks thus all became 'zonal acharyas', carving up the world between them. He publicly announced this hoax in his capacity as editor-in-chief of ISKCON's worldwide magazine, Back to Godhead:

*"Srila Prabhupada selected eleven senior disciples to act as initiating Gurus who could accept disciples after his disappearance. In*

*this way he insured the continuation of the parampara."*

(Satsvarupa dasa Goswami, Back to Godhead, 'Notes from the Editor', #13-01/02 1978)

The result of this initial deception was unmitigated catastrophe, candidly summarized by one of the second wave of unauthorised Guru successors, HH Jayadvaita Swami:

*"FACT: ISKCON Gurus have usurped and misused money, and diverted other ISKCON resources for their own personal prestige and sense gratification. ISKCON Gurus have had illicit sexual intercourse with both women and men, and possibly children as well"* (Where the Ritvik People Are Right, Jayadvaita Swami, 1996)

## Deteriorating Health

Practically from the moment he founded the Guru hoax, Satsvarupa began to develop all types of strange illnesses including migraine, anxiety attacks and physical exhaustion. Some have suggested his continually declining health is a direct reaction for his offenses to Srila Prabhupada. Whatever the case, he is surely the only member of our disciplic succession who has required professional psychiatric help.

## Architect of Great Guru Hoax Part Two

Satsvarupa is very proud of the role he played in assisting with the second phase of the great Guru hoax, where the initial eleven hoaxers made way for dozens more, as he reveals in the following letter:

*"I was one of the pioneer revolutionaries in giving up the wrong 'zonal Guru' system, allowing devotees to choose bona fide ISKCON Gurus as they wished, recognizing that others could become Guru*

*and removing the heavy control of the 'zonal Guru' even over his Godbrothers."* (Satsvarupa dasa, June 2, 2004)

In reality Satsvarupa only became a 'revolutionary' once he saw that he could no longer hold back his many ambitious Godbrothers from forcing their way into the elite Guru club. Otherwise he had been very happy to be one of the only eleven 'Gurus' for almost an entire decade.

## Guru Needs Therapy

In one letter to his followers, Satsvarupa admits he is so mentally debilitated that he is "under the care of an expert psychiatrist MD and an authorised counsellor who is helping me with my anxiety issues." Which makes one wonder how such a person could be spiritually qualified to lead anyone. After all, Srila Prabhupada tells us that:

*"If you chant Hare Krsna mantra without any offense, then immediately the stage will be that you are freed from all material anxieties. That is the test. How I am advancing in chanting will be tested how far you are free from material anxieties. That's all. Ceto-darpana-marjanam bhava-mahadavagni-nirvapanam."* [Cc. Antya 20.12].

The initiating (diksa) Guru is meant to be completely liberated from all material anxiety, fully self realized, and experiencing the transcendental, blissful association of the Supreme Lord at every moment. Why would such a person require professional counselling and psychiatric treatment? Later we learn that some of the treatment he received from his female therapist was somewhat less than professional.

## Nightmare Visions

Satsvarupa then started to display to the world some of his art work on an ISKCON related web site. These ghastly, nightmarish visions revealed a mind wracked with fear, doubt and anxiety: At the top of the next page are just two examples from his extensive and disturbing portfolio. Below is Srila Prabhupada's opinion on this type of art:

*"This is not a good style of painting. It is an artistic style for sense gratification only. I cannot encourage this style—it should be stopped immediately. Paintings should be like the Deities, formal and worshipful. This type of painting is sentimental and not authorised."*

*Paintings should be as our artists in New York are doing. Do not introduce any new styles."* Srila Prabhupada letter to Madhudvisa, 8 December 1973

## Valentine Hodge Podge

More alarm bells sounded when Satsvarupa sent the following letter to his disciples regarding a bizarre lecture he had delivered three days before:

*"I think my main point and theme was empathy. I want you to love me despite my faults, as detailed a disciple should do in the Nectar of Devotion verse I read. By playing this song 'My Funny Valentine', I pledged that I want to see you with a loving heart despite your faults just as we know Gaura Nitai loves us despite our faults... I spoke of changes in myself and in ISKCON, in a positive way, my use of creative innovation and that I am doing that in the way I write and paint... to demonstrate this kind of innovation I played a Coltrane composition intending you to see it as bhajana as pure and even superior to most bhajana music..."*

(Letter to Disciples, Satsvarupa dasa Goswami, 20/8/2003)



# Guru Hoax Founder

Above we see Satsvarupa admits to:

- 1) Playing a mundane pop song to his hapless disciples: 'My Funny Valentine';
- 2) Comparing the mundane love song to injunctions in the Nectar of Devotion and the divine love of Krishna's incarnations, Gaura Nitai;
- 3) Playing mundane jazz music; again to his 'initiated' disciples;
- 4) Claiming this completely mundane, sense gratificatory music was 'superior to most bhajan music'

It should not really be necessary to point out how incompatible the above behaviour is with that of bona fide Vaishnava Gurus in our line. But in spite of all this he carried on accepting good as God worship.

## IRM Issues Warning

*In light of Satsvarupa Maharaja's obvious mental and spiritual breakdown, we issued the following warning in the IRM Newsletter (over and above the usual warning that none of the current 80 ISKCON Gurus are authorised to initiate):*

*"Obviously he (Satsvarupa) needs help, and fast. Our prescription is that he publicly admit he was never authorised to do what he is doing, that he renounce his disciples and give them back to the person on whose behalf he was meant to be initiating all along - Srila Prabhupada. At least his disciples can never say we did not warn them."*

*("Satsvarupa's Valentine Hodge Podge," IRM Newsletter 64)*

Needless to say the warning was not heeded.

## Satsvarupa's Affair is Exposed

Predictably, just as the Riviera Guru Harikesha (highlighted in BTP 2) became attached to his

female therapist, the same thing happened to Satsvarupa. Just as with Harikesha, the truth was hidden for as long as possible. In a letter to his hapless followers (sent on May 10, 2004) Satsvarupa admits that he has been 'physically intimate' with his married female therapist and also explains what finally prompted him to publicly admit to an affair that had taken place a full year and a half previously:

*"An anonymous letter was sent to the Sannyasa Minister, who began an investigation. Dissatisfied with the pace of the inquiry, the anonymous author posted his story on the Internet."*

So Satsvarupa's public admission was entirely due to his being exposed by an 'anonymous' writer, not because Satsvarupa thought he should come clean. He rationalizes his cover up in the following way:

*"We did not see the need for it (revealing the affair publicly) since the relationship had been completely closed. My disciples and many others could suffer because of just one incident. To broadcast it all over would simply cause more harm than good. Those who theorize about the truth and say that anything other than broadcasting is a "cover up" have a technical and theoretical definition of truth, which is not necessarily absolute."*

In other words, had he told his disciples that he had been physically involved with a married woman they might have lost faith in him, so better to cover it up. Obviously it did not occur to Satsvarupa (or his GBC cohorts who aided and abetted the cover up) that once the story got out the whole thing would look even worse, since then his disciples would realize that not only did he



Two examples of Satsvarupa's 'art'



have the illicit affair, but that he had boldly continued posturing as a bona fide Guru and sannyasi whilst keeping them totally in the dark. According to Satsvarupa we are meant to see this as being more absolutely truthful than simply telling the truth. No wonder he needs counseling. One would have thought that at the very least Satsvarupa would have stopped 'initiating' new disciples once he had had the illicit affair with a married woman, but apparently not:

*"I actually declared an event that would be the very last initiation. Since then because I am soft hearted, a few people have "snuck in." These devotees were highly recommended and in some cases had been waiting for years."*

Perhaps now that the cat was wholly out of the bag, Satsvarupa would not carry on the charade any longer. In answer to the following question from his followers: 'Are you still our Guru?' Satsvarupa's answer is quite unequivocal:

*"Yes. I am happy to be Guru of the family I have."*

## Forced Climb Down

After the IRM exposed the whole story in their newsletter (number 65), the GBC tried to pressurize Satsvarupa into allow-

ing his 'disciples' to seek shelter elsewhere. Satsvarupa was initially not too happy about his diminished status: "When I first read this order, I felt a bit angry." But then, no doubt realizing he had absolutely no choice, he firstly points out that Srila Prabhupada is everyone's siksa (instructing) Guru and then generously concedes the following:

*"So if some of you who I have initiated have lost faith in me because of my fall... I hereby bless you to choose another ISKCON Guru and approach him and ask him to become your siksa Guru."*

So his poor, bewildered followers are apparently still his initiated (diksa) disciples, despite all his nonsense, but they are now 'allowed' to get siksa (instruction) from Srila Prabhupada or the other bogus ISKCON Gurus if they really want to. In other words essentially nothing has changed since this was always the case. In this way the Guru hoax nightmare continues year after year, and Satsvarupa clings to his false status for as long as he can.



# The evidence continues: What do the books say? (part 1)

**H**aving examined Srila Prabhupada's written directive, his Last Will and Testament, and instructions sent out by Srila Prabhupada's Secretary, we will now turn to examining what Srila Prabhupada's books state regarding what initiation system should be followed in ISKCON. Srila Prabhupada's books of course are applicable for the lifetime of ISKCON. It is not that they were applicable only BEFORE Srila Prabhupada departed or they became applicable only after Srila Prabhupada departed. No, they are applicable for the lifetime of ISKCON, both for whilst Srila Prabhupada was physically present, and for after he departs. This means that any instructions we find in his books would have been applicable whilst Srila Prabhupada was present, and will ALSO be applicable for the lifetime of ISKCON following Srila Prabhupada's physical departure, unless the books themselves state otherwise of course.

Srila Prabhupada's books DO state the specific initiation system to be followed in ISKCON.

*These references are given in the box above.*

No other initiation system to be followed specifically in ISKCON is mentioned in Srila Prabhupada's books.

On each occasion the following identical arrangement is described:

- a) The candidate must follow 4 regulative

*"In our Krsna consciousness movement, the requirement is that one must be prepared to give up the four pillars of sinful life: illicit sex, meat-eating, intoxication and gambling. In Western countries especially, we first observe whether a potential disciple is prepared to follow the regulative principles. Then he is given the name of a Vaisnava servant and initiated to chant the Hare Krsna maha-mantra, at least sixteen rounds daily. In this way the disciple renders devotional service under the guidance of the spiritual master or his representative for at least six months to a year. He is then recommended for a second initiation, during which a sacred thread is offered and the disciple is accepted as a bona fide brahmana."*  
(C.c., Madhya 24:330)

principles and chant 16 rounds for 6 months.

- b) If these requirements are met, he is automatically recommended for initiation by the Temple President.
- c) Then the candidate will automatically become initiated by Srila Prabhupada.

Interestingly the above arrangement is identical to the ritvik system. Step c) follows from the fact that the books are describing the exact system that was in place when Srila Prabhupada was on the planet - the system in which he was the sole initiator. We already covered the point, that whatever the books state will have to be applicable for BOTH Srila Prabhupada's physical presence and for after his

*"Due to the necessity of these activities, we do not immediately initiate disciples in the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. For six months, a candidate for initiation must first attend arati and classes in the sastras, practice the regulative principles and associate with other devotees. When one is actually advanced in the purascarya-vidhi, he is recommended by the local temple president for initiation. It is not that anyone can be suddenly initiated without meeting the requirements. When one is further advanced by chanting the Hare Krsna mantra sixteen rounds daily, following the regulative principles and attending classes, he receives the sacred thread (brahminical recognition) after the second six months."*  
(C.c., Madhya 15:108)

physical departure. Hence the books describe the initiation system which was in place when Srila Prabhupada was on the planet, and also the system which should be followed for the lifetime of ISKCON. This system involved a person being recommended for initiation by the Temple President, and then automatically receiving initiation from Srila Prabhupada. The FORMALITIES of receiving this initiation right from the early days of ISKCON were in most cases given by senior devotees on behalf of Srila Prabhupada, who would chant on beads, conduct the fire sacrifice, play the Gayatri tape etc., and in the latter days would also accept the disciple on behalf of Srila Prabhupada by giving a name.

The books mention only one initiation system, which applies continuously during and after Srila Prabhupada's presence.

*"Thus in the beginning the students of our Krsna consciousness movement agree to live with devotees, and gradually, having given up four prohibited activities-illicit sex, gambling, meat-eating and intoxication-they become advanced in the activities of spiritual life. When one is found to be regularly following these principles, he is given the first initiation (harinama), and he regularly chants at least sixteen rounds a day. Then, after six months or a year, he is initiated for the second time and given the sacred thread with the regular sacrifice and ritual."*  
(C.c., Adi 17:265)

The Books do not state that in ISKCON one system is to be followed whilst Srila Prabhupada is present, and then another system will be followed once Srila Prabhupada departs.

Hence clearly the books do not describe an initiation system with someone as the Diksa Guru other than Srila Prabhupada.

In the next issue we will provide further evidence how this initiation system detailed in the books could NEVER refer to a Guru system involving ISKCON's current multiple Guru system.

## Back to Prabhupada BACK ISSUES!

To receive back issues of BTP, and to subscribe to our email newsletter, please write to: [irm@iskconirm.com](mailto:irm@iskconirm.com)  
**All glories to Srila Prabhupada!**

# False Gurus Imitate Srila Prabhupada

*"However, one should not imitate the behavior of an advanced devotee or maha-bhagavata without being self-realized, for by such imitation one will eventually become degraded."*  
(Nectar of Instruction, 5, Purport)

## Zonal Acharya Still Alive in ISKCON

**T**he Guru hoax part 1, in which the 11 ritviks (secretaries) appointed by Srila Prabhupada hijacked ISKCON immediately upon his physical departure and declared themselves as his Guru successors, was characterised by grand worship in direct imitation of Srila Prabhupada. This involved the false Gurus receiving opulent worship while sitting on large ornate thrones known as Vyasaśanas, claiming false titles of reverence, and acquiring huge amounts of wealth and disciples. Of course, all these facilities were only ever meant to be used in the direct service of the real, bona fide Guru – Srila Prabhupada – the actual empowered representative of Lord Krishna.

This false imitation of Srila Prabhupada was known as the 'Zonal Acharya' system, since the newly created 'Acharyas' (Gurus) had divided the world between them into 11 separate geographical 'zones', with each Guru being the master of his particular zone. The blatant unauthorised nature of this system led to its apparent dismantling in 1986 (and was unfortunately replaced with another unauthorised system - the 'Guru-by-vote' hoax). The most visible manifestation of the Zonal Acharya system was the worship accorded to the false Gurus which was on the same level as that offered to Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna. Above, we see that one of the original 11 Guru hijackers, HH Hridayananda dasa Goswami, is still worshipped in this

grand style:

*"Then Italian devotees performed a serenade at Acaryadeva's door to look for him and take him to the Temple, it was similar to Prince going to his Palace, [...] devotees sang Gurudev and then jaya Acaryadev and finally only "Acaryadeva Acaryadeva Acaryadeva Acaryadeva," it was completely moving. Then he sat down in a beautiful and charming vyasaśana and the old disciples begun to give him their presents, all were very friendly and personal, were like love confessions from lovers.....that's true! [...] He sat down on in his throne, the Temple was full of devotees, singing the Sri Guru Astaka and while some devotees were washing him his lotus feet, shelter of mankind!!!!!! Then we drunk the water and ate the petals and everything!!!!!!!!!!!!!!..."*  
(*'Srila Acaryadeva Vyasa-Puja, part 2'*, 7/11/2003)

In this overblown worship, we see Hridayananda dasa Goswami being worshipped like a 'Prince' on his 'palace throne', and allowing himself to be glorified as 'Acaryadeva'.



HH Indradyumna Swami: Another one of Srila Prabhupada's many imitators

## Competing With Srila Prabhupada's Books

Another manifestation of the imitation of Srila Prabhupada is trying to surpass Srila Prabhupada's literary legacy by publishing books on Krishna's pastimes. Here is a message from HH Sivarama Swami's servant that shows how desperate Maharaja is to sell cop-

ies of his own "Krishna book":  
Gurumaharaja has suggested that I seek your help in mobilising some pandavas to help with selling the last remaining copies of *na paraye 'ham*. I think all together there are 1000 copies.  
(30/5/2003, 18:20:36 +0100)

Sivarama Swami's book, *Na paraye ham*, is in fact a work of fiction, which he openly admits in the book:

*"The first poetic license, therefore, was to induce the fictional characters Syamalata and Navasakhi. As a consequence of this decision, these literary characters interact with real historical persons such as Radha and Kṛṣṇa."*  
(Sivarama Swami, *Na paraye 'ham*, p.19)

*"Disclaimer: 'One final note. I must reiterate that Syamalata, her story, and her interaction with Sri Radha and other residents of Vraja, is a literary device."*  
(Sivarama Swami, *Na paraye 'ham*, p.29)

Yet we know that Srila Prabhupada has repeatedly condemned the idea of imposing one's imagination on the sacred, pure and transcendental pastimes of the Supreme Lord Krishna and His eternal confidential associates. Here are just two examples:

*"One who follows his imaginations about the Supreme Personality of Godhead is condemned."*  
(Srimad-Bhagavatam, 10.3.32, purport)

*"The wonderful characteristics of the gopis are beyond imagination"*  
(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta Adi Lila, 3.111, purport)

Sivarama Swami also states that his work of fiction is more readable than Srila Prabhupada's books!

*"The story line is meant to generate a more readable litera-*

*ture. Devotees, especially in modern times, are less inclined to read straight philosophy than an attractive story that illustrates points of philosophy. If by reading the latter they become versed in the principles of Kṛṣṇa-tattva, surely our purpose in spreading Kṛṣṇa consciousness is served."*

(Sivarama Swami, *Na paraye 'ham* p.20)

But what does Srila Prabhupada's magnum opus the multi-volume Srimad-Bhagavatam contain, if not the most highly attractive stories about Krishna, His incarnations and His confidential associates – all of which are historical narrations, not fiction, and all of which are replete with philosophy as well? Why did Srila Prabhupada specifically publish his wonderful book, Krishna: The Supreme Personality of Godhead, if not to wean the common man AWAY from fiction, and to attract him to the all-blissful pastimes of Lord Krishna?

*"This book Kṛṣṇa is another presentation to help the Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement in the Western world. [...] People love to read various kinds of fiction to spend their time and energy. Now this tendency can be directed to Kṛṣṇa. [...] We therefore request everyone to take advantage of this great transcendental literature. One will find that by reading one page after another, an immense treasure of knowledge in art, science, literature, philosophy and religion will be revealed, and ultimately, by reading this one book, Kṛṣṇa, love of Godhead will fructify."*  
(Krishna: The Supreme Personality of Godhead, Preface, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada)

What need is there of anything else?"

**SRILA PRABHUPADA IS THE REAL GURU – ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES**



# ISKCON Guru Claims Srila Prabhupada Condemns Christians for accepting Jesus as *Acarya* (Guru)

A hoax by definition has no substance, built as it is on a foundation of lies and fabrication. The great Guru hoax is revealed whenever ISKCON leaders falsely claim that Srila Prabhupada condemned Christians for not following a "living" Guru. As we see below, this nefarious hoax is far from the truth since Srila Prabhupada glorifies Lord Jesus Christ as the *Acarya* (Guru) for the Christians who offers liberation to his followers.

## ISKCON leader contradicts ISKCON Founder-Acarya!

### HH Bhakti Caru Swami, ISKCON GBC voted-in Guru:

"Later on, someone came up with the theory that Srila Prabhupada wanted his disciples to give initiation on his behalf as ritvik *acaryas*, and that all the initiates would be Srila Prabhupada's disciples. As a matter of fact, Srila Prabhupada was very much against this concept. At one point he mentioned this was the flaw of Christianity. Christianity does not accept the system of a present Guru. They think Jesus is the only one and no one is coming to give initiation, or no one is coming as *acarya*. Therefore, there is no system of continuation of spiritual knowledge..."  
(*Spiritual Connections*, Vol. 13, Jan-Apr 1996, p.6)



### His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Founder-Acarya ISKCON and living Guru:

**Girl devotee:** Is Jesus in the parampara?

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes. He says, "there is God. I am son of God." That is parampara.  
(*Bhagavad-gita Lectures* 1975)

**Tamal Krishna:** Can a Christian in this age, without a Spiritual Master, but by reading the Bible, and following Jesus's words, reach the...

**Srila Prabhupada:** When you read the Bible, you follow the Spiritual Master. How can you say without? As soon as you read the Bible, that means you are following the instruction of Lord Jesus Christ. That means that you are following the Spiritual Master.

**Tamal Krsna:** I was referring to a living Spiritual Master.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Spiritual Master is not question of... Spiritual Master is eternal... [As you say that "by reading bible", when you read Bible that means you are following the Spiritual Master represented by some priest or some clergyman in the line of Lord Jesus Christ.  
(*Morning Walk*, Seattle, 2.10.68.)

**Srila Prabhupada:** Actually, one who is guided by Jesus will certainly get liberation.  
(*Perfect Questions, Perfect Answers*, chapter 9)

**Srila Prabhupada:** "This is called Guru-parampara, disciplic succession.. This is our process. We are getting knowledge from Krsna, the most perfect. Or you get knowledge from Jesus Christ, that is also perfect, because source is perfect."  
(*Conversation*, Germany 19.6.74)

"You must follow one *acarya*, like Christians, they follow Christ, *acarya*. [...] You must follow some *acarya* ... Evam parampara praptam."  
(*Room Conversation*, Melbourne, May 20th, 1975)

## ENLIGHTENMENT:

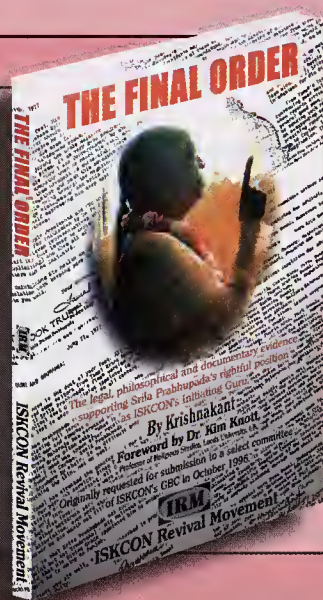
The solution to all this ISKCON Guru confusion is clearly explained in the book "**The Final Order**".

To order your copy, please email us:

irm@iskconirm.com

or fill out the enclosed reply card

or write to our address  
given on page 2.



## THE BOOK THE GBC DOES NOT WANT YOU TO READ!

"I hope this book will be read carefully and discussed widely because the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels. Every devotee has a real stake in the matter."

From the Foreword by Professor  
Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies,  
Leeds University, UK